

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 12793

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: LETTER FROM LON NOL TO MRS. GHANDI ON KHMER ISSUE AT UNGA

1. THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS FURNISHED US A COPY OF A NOVEMBER 18 LETTER FROM MARSHAL LON NOL TO PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GHANDI REQUESTING THE GOI'S SUPPORT ON THE KHMER CREDENTIALS ISSUE AT UNGA. FOLLOWING IS OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE FRENCH TEXT (COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE OMITTED).

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS VOTED THE INSCRIPTION OF THE KHMER QUESTION ON THE AGENDA OF ITS 28TH SESSION, DESPITE THE DETERMINED OPPOSITION OF MY DELEGATION. MY GOVERNMENT AND THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, CONSCIOUS OF THEIR RIGHTS AND THEIR JUST CAUSE, HAVE NOT BEEN DISCOURAGED, KNOWING THAT THIS IS A TACTIC DESIGNED TO CONTEST THE RIGHT OF MY COUNTRY TO REPRESENTATION IN THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION.

3. YOUR EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH HAS DOUBTLESSLY INFORMED YOUR EXCELLENCY OF THE REALITIES HERE. MY GOVERNMENT IS LOCATED IN THE COUNTRY AND CONTROLS THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ITS POPULATION AND TERRITORY. THE STATE INSTITUTIONS CREATED TWO YEARS AGO AFTER A REFERENDUM AND ELECTIONS UNDER UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE COMPLETE AND REINFORCE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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STRUCTURE OF THE KHMER STATE, WHICH HAS THE FORM OF A TRUE DEMOCRACY. LEGALITY AND LEGITIMACY CAN ONLY BE FOUND WITH US. IT IS THUS ABSURD TO CONTEST OUR RIGHT TO SIT IN THE UNITED NATIONS IN FAVOR OF THE EXILED GOVERNMENT

OF PRINCE SIHANOUK, WHICH HAS NO TERRITORIAL BASE.

4. IF BY MISFORTUNE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKS IN FAVOR OF EXPULSION OF MY DELEGATION AND OF MY GOVERNMENT FROM THE ORGANIZATION, YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL READILY REALIZE THE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A DECISION. IT WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR ALL MEMBER STATES AND WOULD CONSTITUTE A GRAVE THREAT TO THE FUTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF, OF WHICH THE CHARTER WOULD HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY FLOUTED.

5. IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS MY COUNTRY IS TRAVERSING A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT PERIOD. MY GOVERNMENT AND THE KHMER PEOPLE LOOK HOPEFULLY TOWARD INDIA, A GREAT AND FRIENDLY NATION TO WHOM WE ARE LINKED BY MANY AFFINITIES. I AM DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT INDIA, A FRIEND FAITHFUL TO GREAT PRINCIPLES AND NOBLE IDEALS, WILL DO ALL POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT MY COUNTRY ON THIS IMPORTANT QUESTION, WHICH WILL IN PART DECIDE ITS DESTINY. SIGNED LON NOL. END TEXT.

6. WE DO NOT KNOW THE MEANS BY WHICH THIS LETTER IS BEING CONVEYED TO THE ADDRESSEE, BUT WILL INQUIRE. SOME OFFICIAL GKR COMMUNICATIONS TAKE A CONSIDERABLE TIME TO REACH THEIR DESTINATIONS.
ENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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